

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 083933

R 120630Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 300

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJ: SUHARTO MEETS STUDENTS

REF: JAKARTA 0459

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SUHARTO MET WITH STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERS ON JAN 11, LISTENED POLITELY TO THEIR RECITATION OF CRITICISM, BUT PROMISED NOTHING IN THE WAY OF ACTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID NOT ACCUSE STUDENTS OF SUBVERSION. INITIAL STUDENT REACTION RANGES FROM MILDLY FAVORABLE TO DISSAPPOINTED. MEETING WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON COURSE OF PROTEST OR PLANS TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST JAPANESE PM TANAKA. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO-HOUR MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND STUDENT COUNCIL REPS CAME OFF ON SCHDULE MORNING OF JAN 11. ACCORDING HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE, PALACE SPOKESMAN SUDHARMONO TOLD REPORTERS PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED STUDENTS' SUGGESTIONS AND WOULD CONSIDER THEM FULLY. SUDHARMONO OBSERVED THAT

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MEETING WAS LIKE ONE BETWEEN FATHER AND CHILDREN. PRESIDENT

RECEIVED ABOUT 100 STUDENTS FROM 35 STUDENT COUNCILS THROUGHOUT INDONESIA IN FORMALISTIC SETTING AROUND LARGE CONFERENCE TABLE

IN BINA GRAHA BUILDING.

3. COUNCILS PRESENTED TWO ROUGHLY SIMILAR SIX-POINT DECLARATIONS (ONE FROM COUNCILS IN JAKARTA AND ONE FROM THOSE OUTSIDE JAKARTA) CONTAINING FAMILIAR STUDENT DEMANDS. JAKARTA DECLARATION CALLED FOR A) OPEN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP B) MORE POPULAR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION C) MORE EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL PRIDE AND SOVEREIGNTY IN CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS D) MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS E) AFFIRMATION OF RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELIMINATION OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES, AND F) MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION. DECLARATION FROM COUNCILS OUTSIDE JAKARTA COVERED SAME GROUND AND ALSO URGED ACTION TO KEEP DOWN PRICES AND ELIMINATE CORRUPTION AND LUXURIOUS LIVING.

4. ALTHOUGH REPORTERS NOT PRESENT, STUDENTS TOLD PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT THEY HAD VOICED POINTED QUESTIONS ABOUT INVOLVEMENT OF HIGH OFFICIALS AND THEIR WIVES IN BUSINESS. ACCORDING DAILY

NUSANTARA THEY ASKED ABOUT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MRS. SUHARTO AND PT BOGOSARI AND PT SAHID (TWO OF HER BETTER-KNOWN COMMERCIAL INTEREST), WHETHER IT IS TRUE THAT BAKIN (STATE INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BOARD) HAS A TIMBER CONCESSION ON BURU ISLAND, AND MORE QUESTIONS IN SIMILAR VEIN.

5. DURING MEETING OTHER STUDENTS WAITED OUTSIDE BINA GRAHA BUILDING SINGING SONGS RIDICULING JAPANESE AND PRESIDENTIAL AIDE ("MR.JAPAN") SUDJONO HUMARDANI. A FEW JIBES WERE ALSO AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT PM TANAKA.

6. AT CONCLUSION OF TWO-HOUR MEETING OFFICIALS PRESENTED EACH STUDENT WITH COPIES OF MULTI-VOLUME DRAFT SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN, RECENT PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET MESSAGE, MAIN GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY, AND OTHER WEIGHTY DOCUMENTS.

7. INITIAL REACTION OF STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERS TO PRESS WAS GUARDEDLY FAVORABLE. UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARIMAN SIREGAR TOLD REPORTERS MEETING HAD BEEN "POSITIVE" BUT SAID STUDENTS PLANNED TO CONTINUE PROTESTS. REPORTED COMMENTS FROM RANK-AND-FILE PARTICIPANTS MOSTLY REFLECTED DISSATISFACTION AT PRESIDENT'S NON-RESPONSIVENESS TO QUESTIONS. "HE JUST SMILED" ACCORDING TO ONE STUDENT. OTHERS EXPRESSED DISSAPPOINTMENT AT PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER GETTING RID OF UNPOPULAR AIDES.

8. COMMENT: MORE AUTHORITATIVE ACCOUNTS OF STUDENT REACTION

TO THIS MEETING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. HQVEVER IT IS AL-
READY CLEAR ENOUGH THAT PRESIDENT AS USUAL PUT ON A RATHER
STIFF PERFORMANCE, DID NOT YIELD ON BASIC POINTS
(NO ONE EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD) AND HAS NOT RPT NOT
SCORED A PUBLIC RELATIONS TRIUMPH. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID
NOT PUT THE STUDENTS DOWN OR CALL THEM SUBVERSIVES. STUDENTS
WILL BE WAITING (WITHOUT MUCH HOPE) TO SEE WHETHER
ANY VISIBLE ACTION RESULTS FROM THEIR PRESENTATION BUT MEETING
ITSELF WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON COURSE OF PROTEST
MOVEMENT OR ON PROBABLE PLANS TO DEMONSTRATE (IF ONLY
ON SYMBOLIC SCALE) AGAINST PM TANAKA.
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